



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for obtaining isolated or cultured antigen presenting cells wherein the expression of one or more target gene(s) is down-regulated, wherein said method comprises introducing in said cells siRNA(s) directed against said target gene(s).

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said antigen presenting cells are dendritic cells or precursors thereof.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said target gene(s) is selected from the group consisting of:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated factor 3; and
- a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A siRNA directed against a target gene selected from the group consisting of:

- a gene encoding the p50 subunit of NF- κ B;
- a gene encoding TNF-receptor associated factor 3; and
- a gene encoding the c-Rel subunit of NF- κ B.

Claim 5. (Original): An expression vector containing a DNA template for a siRNA of claim 4.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented): An immunosuppressive therapeutic composition comprising a siRNA of claim 4.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An antigen-presenting cell obtainable by the method of claim 1.

Claim 8 (Original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antigen-presenting cell of claim 7.

Claim 9 (Original): A method to produce T lymphocytes that fail to produce IFN-gamma, wherein said method comprises inducing activation of naïve T cells by co-cultivating said T cells with antigen presenting cells of claim 7, containing siRNA directed against a gene encoding p50.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising activated T lymphocytes obtainable by the method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 9.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An immunosuppressive therapeutic composition comprising an expression vector of claim 5.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9 are original claims.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11 are previously presented claims.

Claim 10 is currently amended.

Claim 10 has been amended to indicate that the active T lymphocytes are obtained by the method of Claim 9 rather than by Claim 1. Claim 9 recites the method for producing T lymphocytes and therefore Claim 10 would properly depend on Claim 9.

Support for the amendment is found in the claims and specification as originally filed.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-11 will be active.

No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.